

To: ronald.pinhoiro@hhs.gov[ronald.pinhoiro@hhs.gov]
From: Strausbaugh, Dan
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 12:32:40 PM
Subject: Re: HHS/ASPR Region 8 Sitrep #2: Gold King Mine Water Release

Chris P is in Durango. Last night He briefed me on yesterday's events.
Announcements from Gov' office should happen today. Call nr if you would like details.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2015, at 4:28 AM, Pinheiro, Ronald (OS/ASPR/OEM) <Ronald.Pinheiro@hhs.gov> wrote:

HHS/ASPR Sitrep #2

Gold King Mine Water Release

12Aug2015; 0415 hrs MT

BLUF: There are no current or anticipated requests for HHS assistance, other than ATSDR in their customary role of assisting EPA and state/local health departments. There are no reported short and/or long-term public or environmental health impacts, or impacts to the healthcare systems.

Current Situation: On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety triggered a large release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek, which empties into the Animas River. Initial estimates were that the release from the mine contained approximately one million gallons of water. An updated estimate, based on stream flow conditions measured by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), indicates that over 3 million gallons were discharged from the mine. Authorities immediately closed downstream water intakes and closed the river for all recreational uses.

Water is still flowing from the Gold King Mine. The last measure on August 8 was 548 gallons per minute. The mine water is being treated in a series of settling ponds constructed near the portal. The EPA reports the treatment appears to be effective.

The EPA is working closely with first responders and local/state officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through 3 of the EPA's regions, (Region 8 (Colorado/Utah & Southern Ute Tribe), Region 6 (New Mexico) and Region 9 (Navajo Nation)). The EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. The EPA is closely coordinating with officials from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, the Southern Ute Tribe and the Navajo Nation.

The State of Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribe, the counties of La Plata and San Juan, and the local jurisdiction of the City of Durango and the Town of Silverton, have all declared disaster emergencies.

Both EPA Region 8 and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have established the following websites for this incident:

EPA Region 8 Website

www.epaossc.org/goldkingmine

CDPHE Website

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/animas-river-water-quality-sampling-and-data>

Current Actions: ATSDR Region 8 is supporting EPA Region 8 and State/local health departments. IHS is monitoring for impacts to the Southern Ute and Navajo Tribes. ASPR Region 8 is monitoring the situation and maintaining situational awareness with its federal, state, and tribal public health and emergency management partners and stakeholders.

Future/Anticipated Actions: HHS RECs will continue to monitor response activities and maintain situational awareness with its partners and stakeholders. HHS RECS will also continue to participate on Colorado's daily Multi-State/Jurisdictional Coordination Calls, as well as the EPA Region 8 Regional Response Team (RRT) calls when convened.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Also please let us know if you do not want to receive these daily updates.

Respectfully,

Ron

Ron Pinheiro

CAPT, US Public Health Service

ASPR Regional Administrator

HHS Region 8

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